

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), which extends transversely to the travel direction of the film, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a set of ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12)[[.]];

at least one sensor (100) that detects if the tape (60) is present or not on the film provided in a predetermined position relative to said ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws, said sensor detecting if the tape is present or not on the film, wherein the sensor comprises dual feelers that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film[[.]]; and

means suitable to reposition correctly the film correctly in regard of relation to the heat-sealed jaws heat-sealing jaws when the sensor detects a default in the position of the tape, so as to eliminate drift due to the elasticity of the film,

wherein said repositioning means is responsive to detection of a default position by the sensor.

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Claim 2 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by [[a]] two mechanical feeler feelers, each having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

Claims 3-5 (Cancelled).

Claim 6 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means (16) for shaping the film into a tubular bag blank and means (18) suitable for filling the tubular bag blank before applying said film to said heat-sealed jaws.

Claim 7 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means (14) suitable for fixing the tape (60) onto the film (12).

Claim 8 (Cancelled).

Claim 9 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a means for causing the film (12) to travel vertically.

Claim 10 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, further comprising means for causing the film (12) to travel horizontally.

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Claim 11 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the closure tape (60) is ~~chosen in the group comprising~~ a complementary closure strip[[s]], tear/cut tape[[s]], adhesive tape[[s]], or metal tape[[s]] for closing by folding.

Claim 12 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sensor (100) is located along a longitudinal edge of the bag remote from the edge via which the tape (60) is delivered.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 wherein the sensor (100) is adapted to detect the presence of a tape (60), to detect that the tape (60) has been fed properly in the direction that is transverse to the travel direction of the film (12), and to detect that the tape is properly positioned in the longitudinal direction of the film (12).

Claims 14-17 (Cancelled).

Claim 18 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim [[17]] 1, wherein two sensors (100) are disposed close to respective edges of the bag along a generator line that is oblique relative to the travel direction of the film (12) ~~and that corresponds to the expected oblique position for the tape.~~

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A method of forming ~~packaging~~ reclosable packaging bags using a continuously traveling film fitted with at least one closure tape

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(60), which extends transversely to the travel direction of the film, wherein the method comprises the steps of:

cyclically sealing the film with a set of ~~heat sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12) [[.]];

detecting the presence of the tape (60) by means of at least one sensor (100) provided in a predetermined position relative to said ~~heat sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws[[.]];

and repositioning ~~correctly~~ the film correctly in regard of relation to the ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws when the sensor detects a default in the position of the tape, so as to eliminate drift due to the elasticity of the film,

wherein the sensor comprises dual feelers that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film,

and wherein the repositioning is by a repositioning means responsive to detection of a default in the position of the tape by the sensor.

Claim 20 (Currently amended): The method as claimed in claim 19, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by [[a]] two mechanical feelers placed on the longitudinal edge of the film remote from the edge via which the tape (60) is delivered.

Claim 21 (Cancelled).

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the complementary closure strips are male/female strips.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the complementary closure strips have complementary hooks.

Claim 24 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 11, wherein the adhesive tapes are peel-off tapes.

Claim 25 (Cancelled).

Claim 26 (Currently amended): An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), which extends transversely to the travel direction of the film, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a set of ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12) [[,]];

at least one sensor (100) ~~that detects the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is provided~~ in a predetermined position relative to said ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws, said sensor generating a first signal when it detects a thickness corresponding to the presence of the closure tape and generating a second signal corresponding to a default signal when it detects a thickness less than the thickness of the closure tape, wherein the sensor comprises dual feelers that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film; and

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means suitable to reposition correctly the film correctly in regard of relation to the heat sealed jaws heat-sealing jaws when the sensor detects a default in the position of the tape, so as to eliminate drift due to the elasticity of the film, wherein said repositioning means is responsive to said default signal.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), which extends transversely to the travel direction of the film, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a set of ~~heat sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12)[[.,]]; and

at least one sensor (100), ~~that detects the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is provided~~ in a predetermined position relative to said ~~heat sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws, to detect if the tape is present or not, [[and]]

wherein said sensor (100) is formed by [[a]] mechanical ~~feeler~~ feelers, each having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104), said two mechanical feelers being juxtaposed in the longitudinal direction of the film, and

wherein said heat-sealing jaws are responsive to detection by the sensor.

Claim 28 (Currently amended): An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), which extends transversely to the travel direction of the film, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a set of ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12))[[,]]; and

at least one sensor (100) ~~that detects the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is provided~~ in a predetermined position relative to said ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws to detect if the tape is present or not, [[and]]

wherein said sensor (100) comprises dual feelers (100a, 100b) that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film (12), and

wherein said heat-sealing jaws are responsive to detection by the sensor.

Claim 29 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 28, wherein the sensor (100) is formed by two mechanical feelers each having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

Claim 30 (Currently amended): An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), which extends transversely to the travel direction of the film, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a set of ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12))[[,]]; and

two sensors (100) disposed close to respective edges of the bag along a generator line that is oblique relative to the travel direction of the film (12), each sensor (100) detecting the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to said ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws,

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wherein each sensor comprises two feelers juxtaposed in the longitudinal direction of the film, and

wherein said heat-sealing jaws are responsive to detection by the sensor.

Claim 31 (Currently amended): The apparatus as claimed in claim 30, wherein each sensor (100) is formed by [[a]], two mechanical feeler feelers each having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

Claim 32 (Currently amended): An apparatus for forming reclosable bags, wherein said bags are formed from a continuously traveling film (12) fitted with at least one closure tape (60), which extends transversely to the travel direction of the film, wherein the apparatus comprises:

a set of ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws (30) provided transversely relative to the travel direction of the film (12)[[.]]; and

two sensors (100) disposed close to respective edges of the bag along a generator line that is oblique relative to the travel direction of the film (12), each sensor (100) detecting the presence of the tape (60) when the tape (60) is in a predetermined position relative to said ~~heat-sealed jaws~~ heat-sealing jaws, [[and]]

wherein each sensor (100) comprises dual feelers (100a, 100b) that are juxtaposed in the longitudinal travel direction of the film (12), and

wherein said heat-sealing jaws are responsive to detection by the sensor.

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Claim 33 (Previously presented): The apparatus as claimed in claim 32, wherein each sensor (100) is formed by two mechanical feelers each having a pusher (102) associated with an electrical sensor (104).

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